

Why do you want to open an area on land in a refuge? Let's put it in perspective. This refuge is the size of the State of South Carolina. This refuge contains 8.5 million acres of a wilderness that is dedicated in perpetuity and will not be touched. There are 19 million acres in the refuge that are off limits, leaving 1.5 million acres, a little sliver up at the top. That little sliver consists of 1.5 million acres out of 19 million acres. People say that is the Serengeti of the north. That is an untouched area.

First of all, they have never been there, unlike the occupant of the chair who has been there. And I appreciate his wisdom and diligence in making the trip up there.

There is a small village there with 147 people. They live in Kaktovik with a school, a couple of little stores, a radar site, and there is a runway.

What do the people think about it? They want it. They want the alternative ability to have a lifestyle that provides jobs, educational opportunities, personal services, health care, and so forth.

It is amazing to me to kind of watch and participate in this effort to communicate because the environmental community is spending a great deal of money portraying this area in 2½ to 3 months every summer. They are not portraying it in its 10-month winter period. They are not portraying it accurately relative to the people who live there.

They suggest it is going to take 10 years to develop the area. That is absolutely incorrect. They don't point out the reality that we have the infrastructure of an 800-mile pipeline already there, and that we have moved over towards the ANWR line to the Badami field, which is approximately 25 miles away from the edge of ANWR. If Congress were to authorize this area, it would take roughly 3½ years to have oil flowing.

Some people say it is only a 6-month supply. Tests estimate that there is a range of between 5.6 billion to 16 billion barrels. At an average of 10 billion barrels of production, it would be the largest field found in 40 years in the world.

That will give you some idea of the magnitude. It would be larger than Prudhoe Bay, which has been producing for the last 27 years 25 percent of the total crude oil produced in this country.

Let's keep the argument in perspective. It is a significant potential. It can reduce dramatically our dependence on imported oil from Saddam Hussein and others. It can have a very positive effect upon our economy.

Some Members have threatened to filibuster this. I am amazed that anyone would threaten a filibuster on an issue such as this. It is like fiddling while Rome burns.

Those who suggest that fail to recognize the reality that we have an energy

problem in this country, and we have a broad energy bill that we think covers all aspects of energy development as well as new technology.

I urge my colleagues to go back and reexamine the potential.

First of all, let's recognize we have the problem. We are going to have to do something about it. We are not going to drill our way out of it. It is going to take a combination of a number of efforts to utilize existing energy sources. But opening ANWR is significantly a major role, if you will, in reducing our dependency on imported oil.

I remind my colleagues of one other point, and that is, a good deal of the west coast of the United States is dependent on Alaskan oil. That is where our oil goes. If oil does not come from Alaska, oil is going to come in to the west coast from some place else.

Oftentimes people say, developing Alaskan oil has nothing to do with the California energy crisis because they do not use oil to generate electricity. That certainly is true. I agree.

But what I would add is, California is dependent on Alaskan oil for its transportation, its ships, its airplanes. As a consequence, if the oil does not come from Alaska, it is going to come from someplace else. It is going to come from a rain forest in Colombia where there is no environmental oversight. It is going to come in ships that are owned by foreign trading corporations that do not have Coast Guard inspections and the assurance of the highest quality of scientific applications to ensure the risk of transporting the oil is kept at a minimum.

I urge my colleagues to reflect a little bit on the reality that this is an energy crisis. We are not going to drill our way out of it. We are going to have to use all of our resources, all of our energy technology, and a balanced approach, which is what we have in our energy bill, to confront this energy crisis.

Mr. President, I thank you for your time and attention.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, on behalf of the leadership, I ask unanimous consent that this period of morning business be extended until 12:30 p.m. today, with the time equally divided in the usual form.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIP TO ANWR

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise to extend an invitation to all Members of the Senate to take advantage of an opportunity this weekend relative to a trip to my State of Alaska to visit the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

If Members are free, I would appreciate their contacting my office at 224-6665. We do have room to accommodate more Members. We anticipate leaving Thursday at the completion of business and flying up to Anchorage. We will be in the accompaniment of the new Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton, and we will be having breakfast in Anchorage Friday morning, then flying on down to Valdez where we will see the terminus of the 800-mile pipeline. Valdez is the largest oil port in North America, one of the largest in the world. We will see the containment vessels, the technology that is used to ensure that if there is an accident of any kind, the capacity for cleanup is immediately there.

We will also have an opportunity to go across from the terminal to the community of Valdez. We will be able to monitor the Coast Guard station that basically controls the flow of tanker traffic in and out of the port of Valdez. Then we will fly on to Fairbanks where we will overnight and have an opportunity to attend a dinner hosted by some of the people of Fairbanks, including Doyon, which is one of the Native regional corporations. At that time, we will have an opportunity to hear firsthand the attitudes of the people in interior Alaska.

Fairbanks is my home. The 800-mile pipeline goes through Fairbanks. As a consequence, there will be an opportunity to visit the largest museum in our State which contains all the material from public lands that have been generated over an extended period of time. It is an extraordinary collection. It is regarded as one of the finest collections outside of the Smithsonian.

The next morning, we will fly up to Prudhoe Bay. We will visit Deadhorse. We will see the old technology. Then we will go over to the village of Kaktovik in ANWR. We will be in ANWR, and we will be able to meet with the Eskimo people and see physically what is there. We will be able to fly over ANWR, and then we will go back to a new field near what they call Alpine and be hosted by a group of Eskimos at Nuiqsut where they are going to have a little bit of a potlatch for us. Then that evening, we will be in Barrow overnight. Barrow is the northernmost point of the world.

Many of you, if you have any questions about a trip such as that, might contact Senator HELMS. Senator and